United Nations A/C.2/62/SR.33

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
9 January 2008

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 33rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday 7 December, 2007, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Lintonen ..... (Finland)

Contents

Agenda item 53: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*continued*)

Agenda item 56: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(c) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*)

Agenda item 57: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*)

Agenda item 59: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(c) South-South cooperation for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 52: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) External debt crisis and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 56: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 58: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(c) Human resources development (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

07-63181 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 53: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*continued*)
(A/C.2/62/L.37 and L.59)

Draft resolution on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

1. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.59, which was being submitted by her, the Chairperson, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.37. It contained no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), speaking in his capacity as facilitator and also on behalf of the other facilitator, Mr. Løvald (Norway), introduced the draft resolution, noting that it set the exact dates of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development based on information received from the Government of Qatar. Other changes to paragraph 1 concerned the level of the Review Conference, the level of participation, the outcome document and the modalities of Review Conference meetings. The draft also highlighted the important role of major institutional stakeholders in both the preparatory process and the Review Conference itself.

3. Paragraph 9 was one of the most delicate balances in the entire draft. The aim had been to avoid any financial implications — for which he was grateful to the President of the General Assembly for his determination to accommodate the consultation and drafting processes within existing resources — while at the same time responding to the need to conduct a structured review of the six thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus in a predictable manner so as to allow for the participation of experts from capitals and relevant stakeholders, with a view to producing the first draft outcome document by the end of July 2008. That draft would provide the basis for the consultations and drafting processes to be held from early September until the Review Conference. The timetable set out in the paragraph reflected the most delicate balance possible between various positions.

4. Every effort would be made and every available resource used to ensure that the preparatory process was a success. He trusted that the spirit of cooperation, understanding and flexibility that had characterized negotiations on the draft resolution would prevail, leading to a successful Review Conference. Lastly, after drawing attention to a number of minor drafting changes, he recommended the draft resolution for adoption.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.59, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

6. **Ms. Ayesha** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group of 77 and China had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because it attached great importance to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development and the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. She was confident that the Review Conference would provide a platform to meaningfully address global economic imbalances and inequities, assess progress made, reaffirm goals and commitments, share best practices and lessons learned, identify obstacles and constraints encountered and design actions and initiatives to overcome them, and, lastly, pinpoint new challenges and emerging issues. The Group of 77 and China wished to participate in the Conference at the summit level and encouraged all Member States to participate at the highest possible political level, including at the level of Heads of State or Government.

7. The Group welcomed the road map for the Review Conference's preparatory process but was disappointed that not enough time had been allocated for informal consultations on the outcome document. It expected negotiations on that document to begin as early as possible so as to give delegations time to carefully examine the issues and contribute substantively to the outcome. The Group was committed to advancing the global discourse on financing for development and working towards a result-oriented, negotiated and positive outcome.

8. **Ms. Gomes** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, welcomed the consensus reached on the modalities of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Significant concessions had been made by all parties, but with an end result that the European Union was

comfortable standing behind. The European Union had made it clear throughout the negotiations that it was in favour of a ministerial-level conference. The language just adopted left the decision regarding the level of participation with Member States. The European Union was pleased, therefore, that each Government would take a sovereign decision regarding how it wished to be represented in Doha.

9. The resolution also set in motion a preparatory process that was flexible and responsive to the Review Conference's needs. The European Union looked forward to the substantive discussions on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. In order to have the largest impact possible, those meetings should be well planned, bearing in mind the need to take account of the Organization's existing calendar of work in 2008, and should benefit from the technical input and active participation of all relevant stakeholders in the six thematic areas of the Consensus. The fact that delegations had been able to accommodate a process that did not have any programme budget implications was important to the European Union. In that context, she expressed appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for his efforts to accommodate the needs of the process in such a way that did not incur any additional costs to the regular budget.

10. The outcome of the Review Conference should be short and political in nature and focus on the reaffirmation of the Monterrey Consensus and on how to promote its further implementation. Emerging issues would also be integral to the discussion. The European Union looked forward to identifying key issues that had arisen from the changing development cooperation landscape since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus, and to further considerations on the content of the final outcome of the Review Conference in due time.

11. She welcomed the fact that the major institutional stakeholders, civil society and the business sector and other stakeholders would be invited to participate in the Review Conference in the same way that they had in Monterrey. The decision reflected the truly collaborative process that had been borne through the preparations for and follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

12. The European Union looked forward to the President of the General Assembly providing, as soon as feasible, the programme of work for the preparatory process, so as to enable delegations to ensure the most appropriate participation in those meetings, and to the Secretary-General's note on the organization of work of the Review Conference.

13. Lastly, the Committee should make every effort in 2008 to complete its work before the Review Conference and should focus its work during the second semester of 2008 in the macroeconomic and financing for development cluster on ensuring that the Review Conference was a success.

14. **Mr. Heidt** (United States of America) said that a thorough, substantive review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus was crucial, since the Consensus was extremely important for the United Nations and had delivered concrete benefits for many of its Member States. Through its power to convene a global development community, the United Nations had carved out an important role for itself in the development finance debate. For those reasons, a successful outcome of the Review Conference based on an objective review of the Monterrey Consensus was critical for the United Nations, developing countries and development partners alike. Noting that the review would entail a considerable amount of work in an already busy year, he encouraged the co-facilitators to convene an informal meeting in the near future so that Member States could begin planning for what he hoped would be a very productive year. The United States looked forward to engaging fully in that process as a further sign of its strong commitment.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.37 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 56: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(c) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.27 and L.61)

Draft resolution on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

16. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.61, which was being submitted by Mr. Saleh (Lebanon), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held

on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.27. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

17. **Mr. Siregar** (Indonesia), speaking in his capacity as facilitator, recalled that, at the previous meeting of the Committee, a number of minor drafting changes had been introduced in paragraphs 5 and 7 and paragraph 9 had been deleted. In addition, in paragraph 20, the words "Nusa Dua, Indonesia" should be reinserted in the third line and the word "promoting" replaced by "enhancing".

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.61, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

19. **Mr. Young** (United States of America), explaining his delegation's position, said that the United States had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because it strongly supported the goal of preventing and combating corruption. The United Nations Convention against Corruption was a vital tool in the fight against corruption. His delegation supported those elements of the resolution that highlighted its importance. That fight was also a shared problem and States must work together to find common solutions.

20. His delegation was disappointed, however, that the title and certain portions of the resolution did not reflect accurately the principles and language of the Convention. Specifically, they repeatedly condemned the "transfer" of assets of illicit origin and treated the "transfer" of such assets and the laundering of such assets as separate crimes. The Convention, however, required parties to criminalize the laundering of assets of illicit origin, not the act of transferring assets per se. The resolution also implied that the laundered proceeds of corruption must always be returned to the country of origin. The Convention sought to facilitate and promote the return of such proceeds, but clearly recognized the principle that assets should be returned to "prior legitimate owners", which could include countries of origin.

21. The United Nations Convention against Corruption was the product of over two years of intense negotiations among experts from over 130 countries. Chapter V of the Convention provided a groundbreaking and internationally recognized framework for international cooperation in asset recovery cases. The Convention enjoyed widespread support with 140 signatories and 104 parties. The States parties to the Convention were actively engaged in implementing the Convention's provisions through the Conference of the States Parties. His delegation did not wish to see such efforts or the Convention's principles undermined by the repeated negotiation of a resolution — particularly one that undercut the Convention's framework for asset recovery cooperation — at future sessions of the General Assembly. He urged Member States to respect the primacy of the Conference of the States Parties and to refrain from introducing the resolution at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

22. **Ms. Baumgarten** (Canada), explaining her delegation's position, said that Canada had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because it was committed to delivering greater accountability in Government and combating the crime and costs of corruption, which undermined democracy, human rights and the rule of law worldwide.

23. The United Nations Convention against Corruption was expected to become the most important and widely applied international instrument for combating corruption. Her Government attached considerable importance to the role of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention as the primary body for its implementation and hoped that the second session of the Conference of the States Parties, to be held in Indonesia in January 2008, would be an opportunity to move forward the Convention's implementation, in particular its review, asset recovery, technical assistance and preventive measures.

24. However, as more and more countries ratified and acceded to the Convention and the momentum behind the Conference of the States Parties increased, the need for political guidance from the General Assembly diminished. Her delegation would therefore be in favour of considering the resolution biennially, as a minimum.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.27 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 57: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.24 and L. 58)

Draft resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

26. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.58, which was being submitted by

Ms. Tchitanava (Georgia), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.24. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.58 was adopted.*

28. **Ms. Ayesha** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted that, in paragraph 22 of the resolution, the General Assembly had agreed to hold the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries towards the end of the current decade. In that connection, the Secretary-General should include in his note details of the modalities of such a conference, including its preparatory process, and consult widely with Member States regarding the venue of the conference.

29. **Mr. Silvestre** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia and Moldova, welcomed the consensus that had been reached on the draft resolution just adopted. While graduation from the list of least developed countries should be considered as a positive achievement, it was important to ensure a smooth transition that allowed the graduating countries time to prepare for full integration into the global economy without disruptions to their development plans and programmes. The European Union therefore stood ready to help those countries adjust to the phasing out of their status as least developed countries, including within the framework of a smooth transition strategy.

30. Much more remained to be done to help least developed countries overcome the vicious cycle of poverty and misery. The advocacy strategy for the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 was extremely important in that regard and the European Union reiterated its willingness to participate in that strategy as an active stakeholder. The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held at the end of the decade, would be a valuable opportunity to share experiences, exchange good practices and compare assessments of the difficulties faced in implementing all of the commitments under the aforementioned Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. The European Union therefore looked forward to considering the report to be issued by the Secretary-General during the current session outlining the modalities for that Conference.

31. **Mr. Alim** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, welcomed the consensus outcome achieved on the draft resolution and expressed confidence that the next programme of action would be adopted in a timely manner. However, while some progress had been made in the area of good governance, resource mobilization issues remained a major challenge.

32. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.24 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 59: Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*)

(c) South-South cooperation for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.3 and L.54)

Draft resolution on South-South cooperation

33. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.54, which was being submitted by Mr. Hassan Ali Saleh (Lebanon), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.3. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.54 was adopted.*

35. **Mr. Desmoures** (Argentina) welcomed the constructive participation of delegations in the consultations for a high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to be held shortly in Buenos Aires. His delegation looked forward to participating actively in the preparatory work for that event.

36. **Ms. Ferreira** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, welcomed the consensus that had been reached on the draft resolution just adopted, which stressed that South-South cooperation remained an important element in the collective pursuit of

economic growth and development. The European Union was pleased to note that a number of developed countries were already applying strong programmes in support of South-South cooperation. Such cooperation with emerging economies was important, particularly for a more equitable world order and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation was an integral part of global efforts for development. It should therefore comply with the essential principles enshrined in both the Monterrey Consensus and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

37. Further efforts were clearly required to better understand the potential of South-South cooperation to enhance development effectiveness. The European Union therefore looked forward to agreeing the modalities for the forthcoming high-level United Nations conference on South-South Cooperation decided upon by the present draft resolution. The European Union recognized the potential for the United Nations to play an increased role in strengthening funding partnerships among developing countries, particularly for the achievement of the internationally agreed developing goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In that context, the European Union would continue to support South-South initiatives, including through triangular cooperation.

38. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.3 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 52: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) External debt crisis and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.2 and L.57)

Draft resolution entitled "External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problem of developing countries"

39. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.57, which was being submitted by Mr. Peter Alexander Le Roux (South Africa), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.2. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

40. **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa) proposed some minor corrections to paragraph 6 and 17 of the draft resolution.

41. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.57, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

42. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of position, said that the United States strongly supported the Monterrey Consensus, which affirmed that debt was an important part of the development finance equation and that debt sustainability required national strategies for managing liabilities, as well as good governance and sound domestic macroeconomic policies.

43. Much had been done to address the debt problems of developing countries in the past few years. The Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative had provided 24 debtors nearly $42 billion in debt forgiveness. In addition, creditors participating in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative had granted an additional $45 billion in debt relief to 22 countries that had successfully completed targeted poverty reduction strategies. Another nine countries had entered the HIPC process and should benefit from an additional $18 billion in HIPC debt relief upon completion of their economic reform programmes.

44. The United States had been a leader in promoting debt relief to countries eligible for the HIPC initiative and to the low-income countries included in the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. Indeed, the United States had gone beyond the HIPC framework by forgiving 100 per cent of eligible bilateral debts for countries that met their commitments under the HIPC initiative. It had also supported an increase in grant-based financing in countries that were unable to secure adequate financing because of their economic situations.

45. His delegation was pleased that Member States had begun to recognize those accomplishments in the current year's resolution. In confronting difficult challenges, it was important for countries to periodically take stock of their progress, while at the same time renewing their commitments to tackling the challenges of the future. The United Nations could play an important role in helping those countries that benefited from debt relief to strengthen their capacities to manage debt and to recognize that task as an important part of their fiscal policies. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development also played a significant role in that area by providing capacity-building support that should be acknowledged and further encouraged.

46. Debt relief programmes must also focus on poor countries suffering from unsustainable debt. The current resolution called on Member States to foster the political will among creditors, both public and private, to provide comparable treatment to debtor countries that had already worked out sustainable debt relief agreements with the majority of their creditors. By urging comparable treatment, the United Nations was helping countries that sought to manage their debt responsibly and enabling them to use their available resources to invest in development and poverty reduction.

47. His delegation congratulated all development partners, both creditors and debtors alike, for their cooperative spirit in tackling the challenges of debt sustainability for development. It urged continued meaningful discussion and support for effective debt management.

48. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.2 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 56: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.26 and L.52)

49. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.52, which was being submitted by Mr. Hassan Ali Saleh (Lebanon), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.26. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

50. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon), in recommending the draft resolution for adoption, suggested that the floor might be given to the facilitator of the informal consultations in order for her to present a few changes that had been made to the text already circulated.

51. **Ms. Liko** (Austria), speaking in her capacity as facilitator, proposed three editorial corrections to the text of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.52: paragraph 3 should become new paragraph 7; the following words should be added to the end of paragraph 8: "under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare for the benefit of society"; and the whole of paragraph 9 should be deleted.

52. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.52, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

53. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.26 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 58: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(c) Human resources development (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.32 and L.51)

Draft resolution on human resources development

54. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.51, which was being submitted by Ms. Tamar Tchitanava (Georgia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.32. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

55. **Ms. Tchitanava** (Georgia) in recommending the draft resolution for adoption, suggested that the floor might be given to the facilitator of the informal consultations in order for him to present a few changes that had been made to the text already circulated.

56. **Mr. Zilgalvis** (Latvia), speaking in his capacity as facilitator, drew attention to two minor drafting changes to the third preambular paragraph and paragraph 9 of the draft resolution.

57. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.51, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

58. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.32 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/62/SR.34

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
9 January 2008

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 34th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 11 December 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Lintonen ..... (Finland)

Contents

Agenda item 54: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

07-63574 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.23/Rev.2)

Draft resolution on agricultural technology for development

1. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.23/Rev.2. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Fluss** (Israel), in recommending the draft resolution for adoption, announced that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Congo, Eritrea, Monaco, Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Tonga had joined the list of sponsors. The draft resolution marked the culmination of an intensive and constructive process in which like-minded delegations had worked together on an initiative that would significantly bolster development, particularly with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Harnessing the power of agriculture and promoting knowledge and know-how would facilitate efforts to combat poverty and hunger. The broad support for the draft resolution demonstrated the importance of agricultural technology to development and to the work of the United Nations.

3. **The Chairperson** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.23/Rev.2.

4. **Mr. Snoussi** (Tunisia), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that the Group had sought to deal objectively with the draft resolution and had presented a number of substantive amendments thereto during the informal consultations. All such amendments had been aimed at strengthening the draft resolution and broadening its application to include all aspects of agricultural technology with a view to achieving the United Nations development goals. However, since the amendments proposed had not been satisfactorily taken into account, the Arab Group could not agree with the narrow political goals contained in the present draft resolution. It had therefore requested a recorded vote and would not vote in favour of the draft resolution.

5. The Arab Group was convinced that Israel was interested neither in agriculture nor in the peace process. In that connection, it drew attention to, inter alia: the recent building of 307 new settlement housing units on Palestinian agricultural lands in occupied East Jerusalem; the continuing Israeli occupation of the Shebaa Farms in Lebanon; the systematic destruction of the agricultural sector in the occupied Palestinian territories; the bulldozing of agricultural lands, including the uprooting of a vast number of fruit-bearing trees; and Israeli efforts to prevent the export of Palestinian agricultural produce, especially from the Gaza Strip. It drew particular attention to the recent announcement by the Israeli authorities, only days after the Annapolis Conference, that they would continue to bulldoze agricultural lands in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in order to build Israeli settlements.

6. **Mr. Soetarto** (Indonesia), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that agriculture was a vital sector for long-term sustainable development because of its important contribution to economic development, food security and export earnings for developing countries, including his own. However, the present draft resolution failed to comprehensively address the concerns of developing countries with regard to the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals. Many aspects of agriculture required greater international support and commitments from development partners, particularly the need for agricultural technology transfer. The absence of such an important element had resulted in an unbalanced text. His delegation hoped that such elements would be better reflected in future negotiations. It would therefore abstain from voting on the present draft resolution as a whole.

7. *At the request of the Group of Arab States, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.23/Rev.2.**

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

* The delegations of Togo and the Dominican Republic subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.23/Rev. 2 was adopted by 118 votes to none, with 29 abstentions.

8. **Ms. Ferreira** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; and, in addition, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova and Norway, said that agricultural technology for development was an important addition to the work of the Committee in the context of sustainable development. The European Union had therefore actively contributed to the negotiations on the draft resolution, whose text it had helped to shape. The European Union would continue to help foster cooperation and good will among Member States with a view to achieving consensus on that issue in the future.

9. **Mr. Rees** (United States of America) welcomed the positive, open, and intense informal negotiations on the draft resolution. His country supported the current text because it had first-hand experience of developing and harnessing agricultural technology through many of the mechanisms contained in the draft resolution. The United States of America had successful experience in developing effective agricultural research and extension services, improved crop varieties and other innovations which had brought huge benefits to its own consumers.

10. His delegation's strong support for the resolution was also rooted in the growing consensus that developing countries should raise their levels of agricultural productivity as a core development strategy. The United States Agency for International Development was implementing agricultural support and rural development programmes in developing countries around the world. Support for sustainable agriculture was a key component of that Agency's assistance programme. The current resolution also made it very clear that technologies to foster agricultural development should always be welcome, irrespective of the source country.

11. Many developing countries had made tremendous progress in raising the level of technology in their agricultural economies and, in the process, had lifted millions of their citizens out of poverty. One of the key issues agreed upon by the sponsors was that developing countries with successful and technologically intensive agriculture sectors could offer a great deal to other developing countries that had yet to make such progress. The draft resolution just adopted would support those efforts.

12. The draft resolution was a superb example of the type of initiative that could bring substantial benefits to all Member States. It was therefore disappointing that the draft resolution had required a vote, since that might give the impression of a lack of consensus on the important issues at stake. However, since that was not

the case, the Committee should work together to reach a consensus at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. His delegation had also been saddened by the inappropriate injection into the agenda item of political considerations irrelevant to the important development issues addressed by the draft resolution. It was particularly regrettable that the extraneous political discussion had been characterized by a number of inaccurate and inflammatory remarks. Such comments were a mark of disrespect both to the Committee and to the United Nations and they greatly devalued the United Nations development agenda, particularly the importance of raising the level of agricultural technology in developing countries.

13. One important measure of the value of the United Nations was the extent to which it was a place where nations could discuss important differences of opinion in a sincere quest for mutual understanding. Another measure of its value was whether delegations could put aside their differences and work together towards objectives on which they were united. In the future, his delegation looked forward to proceeding with deliberations on such important issues in a spirit of good will and mutual respect.

14. **Mr. Fluss** (Israel) said that appropriate, affordable and sustainable agricultural technologies were known to play an important role in combating poverty and hunger. In adopting the present draft resolution, Member States had demonstrated their collective resolve to make agricultural knowledge and know-how more accessible. The current draft resolution — which has brought together a wide spectrum of sponsors — was in line with calls for action under Agenda 21 and reflected the agenda for the forthcoming cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It would also help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

15. The adoption of the draft resolution also signified a momentous occasion for the Israeli delegation: it was a recognition that Israel could make a substantial and welcome contribution to work of the United Nations. It also demonstrated Israel's desire to engage with Member States, international organizations and the United Nations Secretariat to assist developing countries with their development efforts. Development had always been an issue of tremendous importance to Israel, which had worked for 50 years to advance development by building capacities in countless nations around the world. The present resolution would complement Israel's development agenda and its role on the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In that connection, his delegation also looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General on agricultural technology for development, to be issued during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations A/C.2/62/SR.35

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Official Records

Distr.: General
16 January 2008
Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 18 December 2007, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Lintonen (Chairperson) ..... (Finland)

Contents

Agenda item 59: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(b) Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*)

Agenda item 129: Programme planning (*continued*)

Agenda item 121: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*)

Completion of the main part of the Committee's work

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

07-64843 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Agenda item 59: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(b) Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.4 and L.63)

Draft resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

1. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.63, which was being submitted by Mr. Saleh (Lebanon), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.4. The draft proposal contained no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Gass** (Switzerland), speaking as facilitator of the informal consultations, pointed out some minor editorial changes and a few corrections. In the fourteenth paragraph, the words "with concern" had been deleted. In paragraph 3, the word "recipient" had been replaced by "programme". In paragraph 32, the words "the internationally agreed development goals, including" had been added before "the Millennium Development Goals". In paragraph 124, "management," had been inserted before "policy advisory".

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.63, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

4. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed satisfaction at joining the consensus on the resolution, after two months of gruelling negotiations. Some difficult compromises had been made.

5. **Ms. Ferreira** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, recognized the unprecedented efforts and commitment shown by all Member States in the complex process of negotiating the triennial comprehensive policy review. The text, although not perfect, encapsulated the main interests of all negotiating parties, and the negotiation process had contributed to increasing trust among Member States, which would surely spur further consensus on difficult issues in the future.

6. **Mr. Heidt** (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined the consensus in order to help move the discussions forward on a positive note. As the resolution was the main General Assembly instrument providing guidance for operational activities for development, its lack of clarity on some important and operational issues was a matter of concern. During implementation of United Nations development activities, its provisions would need to be continuously reviewed and improved in a number of ways.

7. First, although there was some recognition of the role of the private sector in development, there was no support for its central importance as an engine for sustainable economic growth and the need for the United Nations system to help countries to create an environment that fostered local private sector development. That was a serious flaw that would impede economic growth and poverty eradication efforts worldwide.

8. Second, the funding section emphasized resource increases for their own sake, with little regard to how the funds would be used and the results expected, which was inconsistent with the results-based management system and results-based budgets that many funds and programmes were embracing. The Secretary-General's report to the next General Assembly, which was requested in paragraph 30 of the resolution, would surely be based on results-based resource allocation principles.

9. Third, the promotion of national execution without acknowledgement of the need to address the weaknesses reported by the auditors in that programme implementation modality could put agencies' funds, credibility and reputations at risk.

10. Fourth, although the need for an independent evaluation of the One United Nations pilots had been recognized, his country strongly supported a role for the regional commissions in those efforts.

11. His last concern related to the fact that the funding of the specialized agencies was the responsibility of their governing bodies and not the Second Committee. In that regard, paragraph 25

confused the relationship between the General Assembly and the specialized agencies and dangerously encroached on the budgetary authority of the specialized agencies' independent governing bodies. That same paragraph also distorted the budget situations of the specialized agencies in suggesting widespread stagnation in funding levels. That assertion was not supported by the facts.

12. **Mr. Nakamura** (Japan) said that the text adopted was the only formulation that could have brought about an agreement. During the negotiations, his country had proposed some paragraphs on human security and the community-based, bottom-up approach to development, as a way of helping to resolve many of the problems facing vulnerable populations. Although those proposals had been withdrawn for the sake of consensus, his country would continue to support the mainstreaming of the idea of human security in United Nations development activities in the United Nations and other forums. Improving the effectiveness of United Nations operational activities was essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, Japan would participate constructively in the discussions on system-wide coherence, the United Nations Development Programme strategic plan and other relevant issues.

13. **Mr. Brevik** (Norway) said that the Committee's compromise text embodied the spirit of resolution 59/250, reaffirmed the commitments it contained and encouraged the continuation of the processes that the previous triennial comprehensive policy review had set in motion. The frank and open exchange of different points of view during that process had deepened Committee members' understanding of each other's positions and had surely contributed to establishing the necessary trust and confidence to enable them all to work constructively together to reach the common goal of a United Nations that was able to deliver better and more effectively in terms of helping those in the greatest need.

14. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus) welcomed the consensus on the draft resolution, which was the result of a compromise and contained many provisions of a general nature. His delegation understood that paragraphs 45 and 46 of the draft were intended as guidance for the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies in helping programme countries to introduce new technologies, including in the area of increasing energy effectiveness. Furthermore, the fourteenth and sixteenth preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 9, 35, 37 and 46 should be understood as referring not just to developing countries but to all programme countries.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.4 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 129: Programme planning (*continued*)

16. **The Chairperson** informed the Committee that she had been advised by the Secretariat that there were no matters that would require the Committee's attention or action under that agenda item. She took it that the Committee decided that no action was required under that agenda item.

17. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 121: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.62)

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly

18. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the Committee's draft programme of work for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/62/L.62).

19. *The draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly was adopted.*

Completion of the main part of the Committee's work

20. **The Chairperson**, in her closing remarks, said that the fact that the Committee had adopted most of its resolutions by consensus demonstrated the realization among Member States that they faced the same threats and challenges and needed to work together. The outcome of the Committee's work consolidated the global partnership and created a solid platform on which to work together more efficiently to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

21. The Committee had enjoyed a very productive session, adopting 34 resolutions and one decision by consensus and just 7 resolutions by a vote. Of particular note were the resolution setting the modalities for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the resolution proclaiming the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017).

22. The Committee had also demonstrated a united front on climate change. Despite the vote on the paragraph requesting that the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change be funded from the regular budget, the resolution as a whole had been adopted by consensus, sending a strong and timely message to Bali.

23. It was regrettable that the Committee had not managed to reach consensus on the trade and development resolution for the fourth year in a row. She hoped that the Committee would achieve a positive outcome on the issue the following year.

24. After many hours of deliberations, the Committee had also just adopted a comprehensive resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. She expressed her appreciation to the facilitator, Mr. Thomas Gass (Switzerland), and to all those involved in the negotiations for their efforts to reach consensus on such an important resolution.

25. As in previous years, the Committee had benefited from a series of panel discussions on issues pertaining to its programme of work. The Committee should continue to invite experts and relevant stakeholders so as to enable ideas to be exchanged and different viewpoints to be considered.

26. Even though the Committee had had to request an extension in order to complete its work, the atmosphere had remained constructive throughout the session. In that regard, she expressed appreciation to the members of the Bureau and the various facilitators; to the relevant United Nations entities for their contributions; and to the many staff members who had facilitated the Committee's work. Without such support, the Committee would not have been able to complete its work.

27. **Mr. Sha** Zukang (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Committee had demonstrated once again the importance of multilateralism and the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development. The Organization's comprehensive set of development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, represented a global consensus on a shared vision for development. Given the mixed results in achieving the internationally agreed upon goals thus far, the Committee's work should be seen as a significant contribution towards renewed efforts for the implementation of all development commitments.

28. The current session had been particularly notable for some very important decisions. Building on the momentum generated by the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the Committee had adopted a resolution setting out the modalities for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development. The Committee had set the stage for a Review Conference that would not only assess progress made, but also reaffirm goals and commitments, leading to further action. Emerging issues such as South-South cooperation, triangular development cooperation and the growing need for strengthened international cooperation in tax matters could also be addressed. A critical juncture had been reached in the financing for development process. He stressed the need to sustain political will for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. His Department would work closely with the two co-chairs in preparing for the Conference.

29. The Committee's landmark resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review would provide guidance to the United Nations development system in carrying out its operational activities for development, specifically on funding, national capacity development and development effectiveness, improved functioning and follow-up. The Committee had set the stage for the future work of the United Nations development system; the Economic and Social Council would be instrumental in enhancing the system's coherence and effectiveness. The Development Cooperation Forum was expected to become a principal mechanism for global dialogue and policy review on key development cooperation issues.

30. The Committee had also taken commendable action on poverty eradication, the greatest challenge facing the world today. He was confident that the Committee's decision to proclaim the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) would galvanize the international community's efforts and touch the lives of the weak, the hungry and the poor.

31. The Committee's timely resolution calling for urgent global action to address climate change had provided the backdrop for discussions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held recently in Bali. Like the Committee, the Conference of the

Parties had acknowledged that efforts to address climate change in a manner that enhanced the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the developing countries and the eradication of poverty should be carried out through promoting the integration of the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection.

32. To achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development, globalization must become a positive force for all. The increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations had affected the scope for domestic policies, particularly in such areas as trade, investment and industrial development. In that regard, the Committee had highlighted the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international obligations.

33. Against a backdrop of global financial turmoil, the Committee had underscored that global economic growth and a stable international financial system could strengthen the ability of developing countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, the Committee had rightly stressed the importance of cooperative and coordinated efforts by all countries and institutions to cope with the risks of financial instability. The Committee had also reiterated the need to enhance developing country voice and participation in the Bretton Woods institutions, which it had encouraged to take further and effective measures. He hoped that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would address those issues.

34. Lastly, the Committee had helped give new impetus to the implementation of the United Nations development agenda. The Secretariat looked forward to continuing to support the Committee's work in that area.

35. **Mr. Silvestre** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, said that the overall result of the Committee's work in all four of its clusters demonstrated the international community's unity and close collaboration on the broad range of issues relating to development. He expressed appreciation to all delegations for their spirit of cooperation, dedication, moments of inspiration and flexibility; acknowledged the negotiating partners' efforts to find common ground and advance the Committee's agenda; and observed that the quality of the discussions within the Committee itself had been considerably enhanced by the participation of experts, senior officials, interest groups and civil society in the Committee's general debate and various side-events.

36. There was still room for improvement, however, in many aspects of the Committee's work, particularly its repetitive nature. Certain working methods should also be further improved. In particular, he called for better utilization of time available and better allocation of venues for informal consultations. He nonetheless welcomed the Secretariat's work on the Committee's website and QuickPlace, both of which had proven very useful to delegations.

37. The European Union would continue its commitment to ensuring consistency between its internal and external policies in order to achieve global goals on all the issues addressed by the United Nations. In light of the challenges currently facing it, the world expected the United Nations to tackle the issues before it decisively, efficiently and effectively, and required strengthened and more ambitious international policy commitments.

38. Lastly, the Committee should focus more on action on the ground so as to ensure that the objectives set by the international community were implemented.

39. **Mr. Nakamura** (Japan) said that his delegation regretted that it had been necessary to decide some resolutions by a vote and hoped that Member States would renew their commitment to finding common ground so that all resolutions could be adopted by consensus the following year.

40. With so many major development-related conferences scheduled, 2008 would be an important year for international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. He hoped that the following year's programme of work would take into consideration delegations' increased obligations and responsibilities as a result of such events. In particular, it was important to avoid duplication between the preparatory process for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development and the Committee's work in the macroeconomic cluster.

41. In 2008, Japan would host the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May and the Group of Eight (G-8) Hokkaido-Toyako Summit in July. His Government was determined to use those opportunities to advance the cause of African development, promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and contribute to the work of both the Economic and Social Council and the Committee.

42. After the customary exchange of courtesies, in which **Mr. Silvestre** (Portugal), **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa), **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and **Mr. Nakamura** (Japan) participated, the **Chairperson** declared that the Committee had completed the main part of its work for the sixty-second session.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.